

Senate Resolution 1084

By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Douglas of the 17th, Mullis of the 53rd, Thompson of the 5th, Stoner of the 6th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to pass legislation authorizing the creation of a special
2 United States Atomic Service Medal to honor Atomic Veterans; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, nuclear atmospheric and underwater tests conducted from 1945 to 1962 utilized
4 hundreds of thousands of American service personnel from every branch of the armed forces;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, these Atomic Veterans helped provide the answers for the scientists,
7 researchers, and government policy makers on the unknowns and effects of ionizing
8 radiation; and

9 WHEREAS, the technical data and knowledge gathered from this nuclear testing provided
10 this nation's military with superiority in nuclear weapons deterrents, the most modern and
11 safest nuclear power generating plants, nuclear powered fleet ships, and a host of modern
12 technological advances in the field of nuclear medicines from which all Americans have
13 benefited; and

14 WHEREAS, these Atomic Veterans served in hazardous areas and were exposed to the then
15 unknown factors of Alpha, Beta, and Gamma radiation in the performance of their duties;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, in 2002, President George W. Bush in a nationwide statement said that the
18 atomic veteran's exposure to nuclear radiation was as grave as any war veteran who was
19 wounded in action, where in both cases the veteran stood in harm's way, did their duty, and
20 protected the United States of America; and

21 WHEREAS, the United States has not adequately recognized the important contributions and
22 terrible sacrifices made by our nation's Atomic Veterans.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
24 urge the United States Congress to pass legislation requested by the American Legion and
25 other veterans organizations authorizing the creation of a special United States Atomic
26 Service Medal.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
28 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the American Legion and to members
29 of the Georgia delegation to the United States Congress.